

Lawrence D. Blum, M.D.

2400 Chestnut Street
Suite 2810
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 751-0102

2407 '00 AUG 16 P2:15
One Cherry Hill
Suite 920
Cherry Hill, N.J. 08002
(856) 779-7911

January 30, 2000

Jane Henney, M.D.
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing to urge you and the FDA to ban the use in animal feed of antibiotics used in human medicine. I would have no objection to certain antibiotics being used to treat particular sick animals, but I have been appalled in the last few years to learn of the widespread use of antibiotics in the poultry, pork, and cattle industries. Worse, as each month and year we observe the diminishing effectiveness of important antibiotics, is to learn of the correlation of this decline to the use of these agents in farm animals.

Recent studies, mostly in Europe, show that the marginal benefit to farmers of the use of these medically important drugs is easily regained by making improvements in the conditions in which the animals are kept. The use of these drugs in farming is dangerous to humans and is not justified by its small putative benefit to farmers.

An immediate ban would be a great advance for public health.

Also: The continued legal use of offal in animal feed in the United States leaves our citizens in danger of BSE/Mad Cow Disease epidemics such as the recent one in Great Britain. Please act to ban this practice immediately.

Thank-you for your efforts to protect public health.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence D. Blum, MD

99P-0485

C 2606

nce D. Blum, M.D.
00 Chestnut Street
Suite 2810
adelphia, PA 19103



Jane Henney, M.D.

Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration

5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471

Rockville, MD 20857

